

John J. McCloy, Kai Bird's "The Chairman," Simon & Schuster  
800 pp., \$30.00

4/12/92

The Washington Post's Book World, whose lead review as of this book, selected the anti-JFK Michael Beschloss to write the review. Why Beschloss of all possible reviewers with his credentials is not clear to me, but slight as the possibility is, I cannot entirely ignore that in what Beschloss selects to comment on and quote there is no reference to the fact that McCloy was a member of the Warren Commission.

Bird has been working on this book for quite a few years because it has been that long since to my knowledge he was working on it. He was with The Nation and his associate there and I understood on the book was Max Holland.

I do not recall what it was in my files that was of most interest to them but I now think it was the Commission's executive session transcripts. I do remember telling them that I believe some of his observations and comments in the expectation of perpetual secrecy could be interpreted as saying much about him.

The references to McCloy's career in the review are to parts of it that are well known. As what he said and did on the Warren Commission is not.

It seems inevitable to me that with all that work and with 800 pages in which to report it Bird must have what is not so well known in the book.